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COUNTRY AlbaniaREPORT NO. [REDACTED]TOPIC Albanian Railroad LinesEVALUATION [REDACTED] 25X1XPLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1ADATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

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DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 27 February 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - sketch on ditto

REMARKS

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1. The Tirana-Durres single-track, standard-gauge railroad line was opened on 7 November 1948. German Henschel-type steam locomotives operated on this line, which is 30 to 40 km long. (1)
2. The Durres-Xavaje-Peqin single-track, standard-gauge railroad line was opened on 7 November 1947. (2)
3. Work on the construction of the Peqin-Elbasan railroad line was started in mid-1950. The line was scheduled to be completed by late 1950. (3)
4. These three railroad lines are the only standard-gauge railroad routes in Albania. In addition there is a narrow-gauge line with a gauge of 60 or 75 cm connecting Vlona with Selenica. This railroad line, which is about 30 km long, is used for the transportation of coal and asphalt from the Selenica mines to the port of Vlona. (5) Small Henschel-type steam locomotives operate on it.

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Comments.

- (1) Major man-made structures on the line include a tunnel 170 meters long near Rashbulle, and bridges from 110 to 140 meters long over the Arzen, Limuth and Shen-Vlash Rivers. Besides these bridges there are 75 small bridges. The railroad line would therefore be very vulnerable to aerial bombardment and ground action, particularly since rerouting facilities are not available.
- (2) This line is 41 km long.
- (3) According to press reports, this line, which is 32 km long, was completed in December 1950. It is a difficult mountainous line with four tunnels, each 1,000 meters long, about 100 bridges including the multi-arch bridge across the valley of the Shkumbi River. Its load capacity is limited because of its many man-made structures, steep grades and narrow curves.

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Because of the tension existing between Albania and Yugoslavia, it is doubted that the intended extension of this line to Lake Ochrida on the Yugoslav frontier, where it would join the Yugoslav railroad system, will be built.

- (4) In 1949, a 7-km standard-gauge branch line, which connects to the Durrës-Tirana railroad line, was built between Yzberish south of Tirana and the Ashar industrial area. It was opened on 1 September 1949, after a construction period of four months.
- (5) This narrow-gauge railroad line was built as the first Albanian railroad line after World War I. The rolling stock was completely destroyed when the Germans withdrew from the country in 1944; however, it was reopened as early as 1945.

1 Annex: One sketch on ditto.

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